

# INTRODUCTION TO BARRINGTON

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## *Brief History*

Until 1833, the area that now includes Barrington had for centuries been the home to tribes of Pottawatomi and Mascouten Indians. Late that year, under the terms of a treaty signed by Chief Blackhawk, the migration of the Indians across the Mississippi River began, thus opening up vast tracts of land along the Fox River to early settlers who began moving to the area in 1834.

Pioneers who traveled from Troy, New York, by way of the newly renamed City of Chicago, settled in what would later become Cuba Township in Lake County. Other settlers, primarily from Vermont, upper New York State, and Massachusetts (most notably from the Great Barrington area in Berkshire County, Massachusetts), settled in what is now Cook County. Their settlement was originally called Miller Grove but, was later renamed Barrington Center. It was established at the point where Sutton Road crosses Route 68. The area's rich soil and ample water supply naturally attracted a growing number of farming families throughout the 1830s. These farming families were industrious, courageous people who saw an opportunity to carve out a prosperous future, not only for themselves but for those who would follow.

Settling down caused changes and the settlers felt the need to develop a community. The first school house, the Northway School, was built at Barrington Center early in the 1840s just east of what is now the Catlow Theatre. Not only was this simple, one-room school the seat of learning for a growing number of farm youngsters, it also served as the house of worship for the Methodists and the Congregationalists until completion of their own churches in 1859. In 1850, at the request of the County Sheriff, the inhabitants of the various nearby settlements assembled to choose a name for their township, and to set up a town government. The name they chose for the township was Barrington.

In 1854, Robert C. Campbell, a civil engineer, completed a detailed plan for a village to be called Barrington Station. When built, it consisted of a farm house and a log barn owned by Willard Stevens, and was bounded by what is now Hough Street, County Line Road, a line east of Spring Street, and by a point a few feet south of Russell Street. The 80 acres within this boundary were the nucleus of what is today Barrington proper. That same year also brought about the completion of the northwest extension of the Chicago and Fond-Du-Lac railroad, later known as the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. Deer Grove was the initial home of the railroad station, but in reaction to protests from residents of Deer Grove the Station was carted a few miles up the track by flat car to what would soon be the site of Barrington Station.

The homes that sprang up around the Barrington Station were constructed of logs, as were most homes in rural America at that time. But in 1855, the Village's first milled lumber facility began operations. The building that housed the mill is still a fixture on Franklin Street, a vivid reminder of Barrington's rustic past. In 1863, the 300-some people who comprised the population of Barrington Station decided, in a referendum, to separate local and township powers. This led, in 1865, to the state legislature's approval of a charter for the Village of Barrington. Not surprisingly, many families from nearby communities saw the potential advantages of moving to Barrington and having easy access to the railroad and the growing number of stores that had recently opened. In reaction to this steady migration, the number and variety of small businesses to set up shop near the railroad kept pace with the growing needs of the population.

In the last decades of the 19th century the City of Chicago grew from a promising prairie town to a great pivotal hub of commerce and industry. As Chicago became more prosperous, the desire for suburban living led to major population growth both in the countryside and in the Village of Barrington. In the 1920s, advancements in transportation allowed wealthy families from Chicago to move into the Barrington area and build family estate homes. The location of the Village and its attractive environment appealed to those who had become wealthy during the booming 1920s. The Village's population growth slowed during the difficult

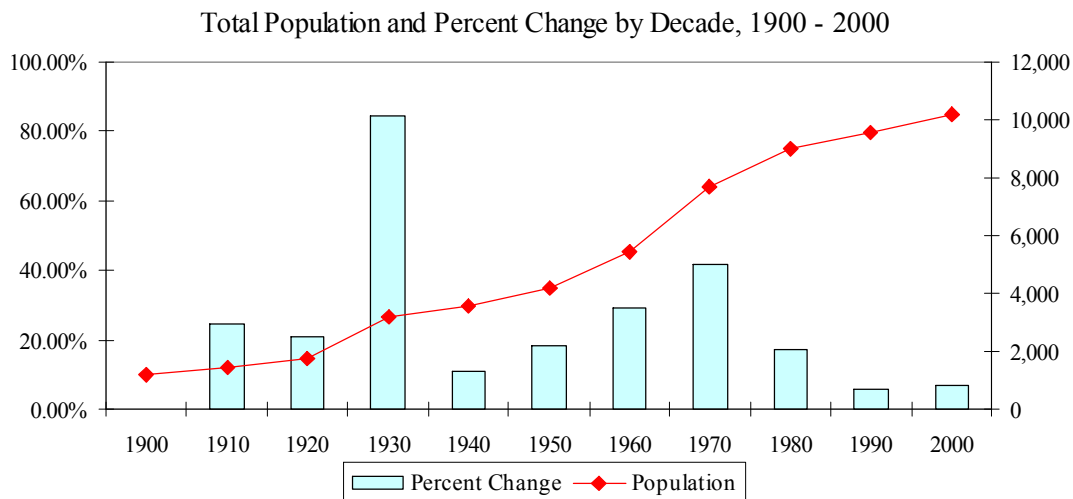
times of the 1930s and 1940s, but then resumed in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s as a result of the suburbanization in the Chicago area and the post World War II baby boom.

### ***Barrington Today***

The Village is located approximately 38 miles northwest of the Chicago Loop and encompasses a total land area of approximately 5.1 square miles. Barrington is a recognized Tree City USA community and has held this distinction for 14 consecutive years. The Village currently operates under the President/Board of Trustee form of government that is comprised of six (6) Trustees, a Village President, and a Village Clerk, all of whom are elected at large.

The Village is centrally located in the Central Northwest Suburban Chicago Area, a region that has in the past encouraged limited development and the preservation of open space. One of the major challenges facing the community is the need to balance residential and commercial development in the area while working to preserve the character and environment of the community.

The Village's population has been relatively stable for the last two decades. As illustrated in the chart below, Barrington experienced the most rapid growth in population during the decades of the 1920s, 1960s, and 1970s.



According to the 2000 census, Barrington's population is 10,168. This population is based on a total of 3,767 households in the Village, including 2,797 family households (composed of a group of related individuals) and 970 non-family households (composed of either unrelated persons or one person). The total number of households increased by 278 (7.97%) from the 1990 census. During the decade of the 1990s, the total population of the Village increased 6.61%. The average household size in the Village was 2.70 and the average family size was 3.20; in comparison the average Illinois household size in the 2000 census was 2.63 and the average Illinois family size was 3.23.

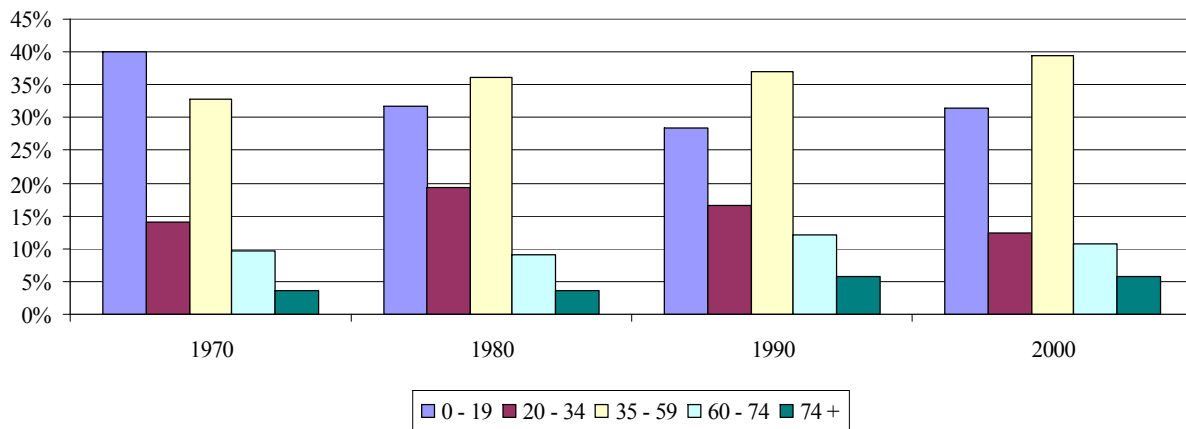
Since the completion of the 2000 census, Village building permit records indicate that approximately 57 new residences, including 39 single family and 18 multi-family residences, have been built in the Village. By multiplying these new residences by the average household size of 2.70, the Village estimates that approximately 153 residents have moved into the Village since 2000, thereby producing an estimated population in 2004 of 10,321. In comparison, the Bureau of the Census estimates Barrington's population as of July, 2003 to be 10,211.

In terms of the composition of the Village's population, according to the 2000 census the majority of the population in Barrington was Caucasian and not of Hispanic/Latino origin. The next largest racial group in the community was Asian-Americans who comprised 2.01% of the total population. Overall, there were slightly more females than males residing in the community.

<b>Population Characteristics</b>		
<u>Racial and Gender Composition</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Caucasian	9,778	96.2%
African-American	63	0.6%
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	13	0.1%
Asian or Pacific Islander	204	2.0%
Other or More Than One Race	110	1.1%
Total Population	10,168	100.0%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	237	2.3%
Male	4,829	47.5%
Female	5,339	52.5%

The median age of the Village's population in the 2000 census was 38.6 years, an increase of 7.5 years over the median age of 31.1 years reported in the 1970 census. The largest segment of the population consists of people aged 35 to 59 and the proportion of persons in this age category has been increasing since the 1970s. The population age distribution in each census since the 1970 census is displayed in the following chart

Age Distribution of Population, 1970 - 2000



According to the 2000 census, slightly more than 58% of Village residents 25 years of age or older have attained a college degree, including 24% who have either a graduate or professional degree. This is much higher than either Illinois or national averages (26.1% and 24.4%, respectively). Another 22% of residents who are age 25 or older have attended some college or attained an Associates degree. Slightly more than 94% of Village residents 25 or older have their high school diploma (or equivalent), this is also much higher than the State and National averages (81.4% and 80.4% respectively).

The educational achievements of Village residents may help to explain the community's low level of unemployment. The percent of unemployed persons in Barrington was 1.9% in 2000; 2.5% in 2001; 3.2% in 2002; and 3.4% in 2003. As demonstrated in the table on the following page, the unemployment rate in Barrington is consistently lower than both Illinois and national averages.

<b>Unemployment Rates</b>				
	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Barrington	1.90%	2.50%	3.20%	3.40%
State of Illinois	4.30%	5.40%	6.50%	6.70%
United States	4.00%	4.80%	5.80%	6.00%

Those Barrington residents who are employed tend to work in white-collar or service sector jobs. As demonstrated in Employment by Sector Table, the 2000 census found that approximately 64% of Village residents are employed in one of these four sectors of the economy:

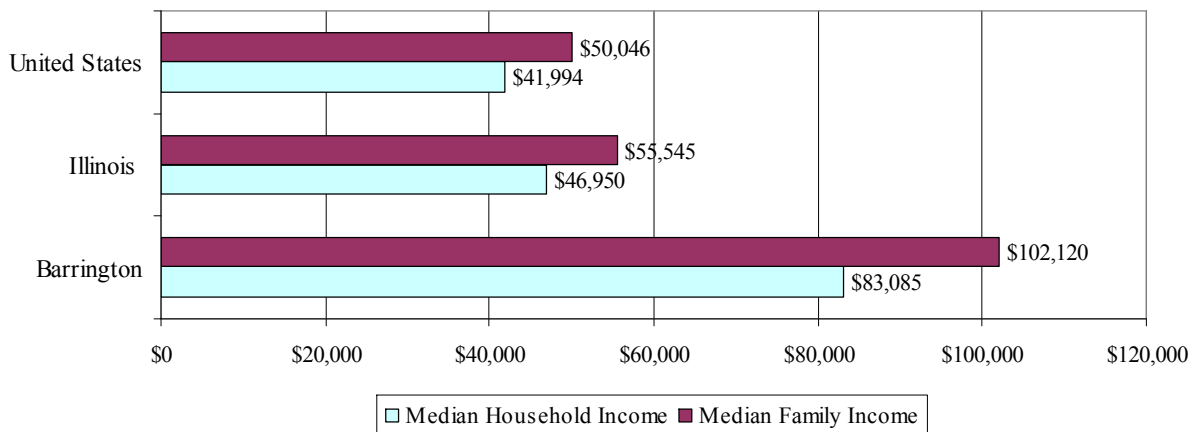
- Wholesale and Retail,
- Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental & Leasing;
- Professional, Scientific, and Management;
- Educational, Health, and Social Services).

<b>Village Residents, Employment by Sector</b>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, Mining	14	0.4%
Construction	134	2.9%
Manufacturing	723	15.6%
Wholesale & Retail Trades	736	15.9%
Transportation & Warehousing, Utilities	132	2.8%
Information	269	5.8%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	607	13.1%
Professional, Scientific, Management	830	17.9%
Educational, Health & Social Services	785	16.9%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation	180	3.9%
Public Administration	90	1.9%
Other Services	130	2.8%
Total Workforce	4,633	100.0%

The education level, low number of unemployed, and type of employment for residents probably explain the very low number of Barrington residents who live in poverty. In the 2000 census, only 2.3% of households and 3.1% of individuals in the community had incomes below the poverty line. Fifty-five (55%) percent of family households living in poverty were families with a female head of household (no husband present) with children under the age of 18.

In terms of income, as illustrated in the Comparison of Median Incomes Chart on the following page, both household and family income levels in Barrington are high when compared to National and State averages. The median household income of Barrington is \$83,085, which is \$36,135 (76.96%) higher than the average for Illinois and \$41,091 (97.85%) higher than the national average.

Comparison of Median Incomes, 2000 Census



The high median income of Barrington households and families partially explains the high quality housing stock in the Village. The median housing price of \$329,900, as reflected in the 2000 census, is well above the median housing prices in the Region, State, and Nation. Over 84% of Barrington houses cost more than \$200,000 according to the 2000 census (58% of these cost more than \$300,000). In 2003, the Illinois Association of Realtors reported that the median price of houses sold in Barrington was \$380,000.

### ***Schools and Education***

The Village of Barrington is included in Unit School District 220 which includes elementary and secondary educational facilities. This school district is one of the best in the State as indicated by the high test scores achieved by students at every educational level (elementary, middle school, and high school) within the district. Included in the corporate boundaries of the Village are four elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. In 2001, Unit 220 School District served 3,905 elementary students, 1,975 middle school students, and 2,430 high school students.

The Village is also located in Community College District 512. Village residents can access educational services through Harper Community College, which is located approximately five miles south of the Village in Palatine. In addition, the Chicago region includes numerous higher educational facilities including, outstanding four-year universities such as Northwestern University and the University of Chicago.

### ***Transportation***

*Major Roads and Highways:* Northwest Highway (Illinois Route 14), Illinois Route 59, and Lake-Cook Road. Interstate 90 intersects Illinois Route 59 approximately 6 miles south of the Village. Once on Interstate 90, a commuter has access to multiple interstate highways and can travel throughout the region.

*Public Transportation:* As discussed Barrington's history, the Village center includes a railroad station that offers Metra commuter rail services to and from Chicago; the train ride takes approximately an hour. The PACE Suburban bus system also has stops in the Village, and the Village supports a PACE Bus Dial-A-Ride service for the handicapped and elderly.

*Airports:* The Village is located approximately 25 miles from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, and approximately 40 miles from Chicago's Midway Airport.

### ***Municipal Services and Facilities***

The Village provides residents of Barrington with a full range of municipal services, including police and fire protection, street maintenance, forestry services, utilities (including Water, Wastewater, and Recycling and

Refuse), and Parking. In conjunction with intergovernmental agreements, the Village provides certain services to adjacent areas including water and wastewater services to areas within Barrington Hills and the Village of Inverness, police protection to the entire Village of Inverness (population 6,749); and fire/EMS services to the Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District (population 25,000). Service statistics for the Village include:

Center Lane Miles of Streets

State	11
County	7
Village	45

Number of Street Lights	795
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Miles of Bikeways

Fire Protection

Number of Stations	3
Number of Full-Time Firefighter/Paramedics	32
ISO Rating	4

Police Protection

Number of Stations	1
Number of Sworn Officers	35

Municipal Water

Number of Metered Customers	4,134
Average Daily Consumption	1,207,071
Capacity – Gallons per Day	5,760,000
Average Daily Production	1,567,545
Miles of Water Main	86

Municipal Sewers

Miles of Sanitary Sewers	62
Miles of Storm Sewers	49

***Culture and Recreation***

Village Residents have many choices of cultural and recreational facilities. The Barrington Area Park District provides services to the community including 5 parks with 150 acres of park area. Park District facilities include an aquatic center, a fitness center, baseball diamonds, basketball courts, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, and playgrounds.

The Barrington Area Library District serves residents of the Village and surrounding communities and is located in the Village. Library statistics include:

Number of Libraries	1
Number of Volumes	240,733
Audio Recordings	16,431
Video Recordings	14,214
Periodicals	457
Registered Borrowers	47,312
Circulation	682,813

Other recreational facilities in the Village include the Catlow Theatre (a movie theatre), the Makray Memorial Golf Club, the Barrington Area Historical Society Museum, and various art galleries. Recreational attractions in the suburbs surrounding the Village include forest preserves, lakes, the Fox River, movie cineplexes, shopping malls, amusement parks, and water parks. Village residents can also travel to the City of Chicago by car or train to take advantage of the numerous cultural and recreational facilities located there, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium, Adler Planetarium, the Museum of Science and Industry, and Lincoln Park Zoo.